

California Opinion Leaders Eye Dropping Of Two-Thirds Vote To Approve State Budget, Taxes

By All Headline News Staff

[All Headline News](#): California opinion leaders want to put an end to the frequent delays in the state budget's approval, blamed on the two-thirds majority vote requirement.

Leading the push to drop the two-thirds rule is the New America Foundation, a nonpartisan public policy institute. NFA senior scholar Mark Paul called the supermajority rule a social science experiment the past 75 years for the budget, and the past 30 years for taxes, an utter failure. California Lt. Gov. John Garamendi, who shares NFA's stand, said the rule is an affront to democracy.

Garamendi said, quoted by the San Francisco Chronicle, "In Sacramento, it's not majority rule, but minority rule... We've tied ourselves in knots with the two-thirds rule, so it's time to go back and move to a simple majority rule for everything."

There are ongoing initiatives to amend the law from two-thirds to 55 percent in the Assembly and for voter approval in 2010. The measures, though, are expected to be opposed by California Republicans.

Meanwhile, California's capital city is itself facing a projected \$50 million deficit for the incoming fiscal year starting July 1. Among the measures the city government is studying are sweeping layoffs and massive cuts in services across various departments and services.